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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS

UNITED STATES ARMY

JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR SPECIAL WARFARE (AIRBORNE)
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28307

SAVA 1084 ✓
Executive Registry
69-1401/1

ATCSW-AID

22 April 1969

Mr. Richard Helms
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dick:

Many thanks for your letter of 2 April with reference to my thoughts concerning a possible idea that might bolster the U. S. G.'s public relations posture during the Paris negotiations.

I have delayed replying until now hoping to receive a favorable reaction to the project in question from both my own Agency and USIA.

Unfortunately, initial responses from these agencies have been something less than enthusiastic. Their principal objections seem to be that the "credibility gap" in this country could not be influenced by any undertaking, such as I have envisaged, which was datelined Paris. I feel that some of our bureaucrats are prone to miss certain subtleties in this situation.

At any rate, I am still endeavoring to work out a scenario with my thoughts developed in greater detail, as you suggested. When this is completed, I shall send it along.

Once more, Dick, I very much appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,

Donald Q. Coster
AID Advisor

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